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CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are more than one hundred and thirty States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including the exchange of information

and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, 1/ and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, 2/ of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint, 3/ agreed to by consensus at its last meeting at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, 4/ in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective shall be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the Final Document of the Third Review Conference, the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts and the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994,

1. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

1/ BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

2/ See BWC/CONF.III/23.

3/ BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

4/ BWC/SPCONF/1.

2. Welcomes the work begun by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994 and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in accordance with its mandate, to complete its work as soon as possible and submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference or later at a Special Conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depository Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference, as well as the decisions contained in the Final Report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. Notes that, at the request of the States parties, a Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention will be held at Geneva from 25 November to 13 December 1996, that, following appropriate consultations, a Preparatory Committee for that Conference has been formed, open to all parties to the Convention, and that the Committee will meet at Geneva from 9 to 12 April 1996;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Fourth Review Conference and its preparations;

6. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".